



The ISC Newsletter

International Society of Cryptozoology

Autumn, 1985
Vol. 4, No. 3

Editor

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The *ISC Newsletter* is an official publication of the International Society of Cryptozoology, and is published for Society members and Institutional subscribers. Membership is \$25 annually; Institutional subscriptions are \$35. Membership and subscription inquiries and correspondence, should be addressed to ISC, Box 43070, Tucson, AZ 85733, USA; (602) 884-8369.

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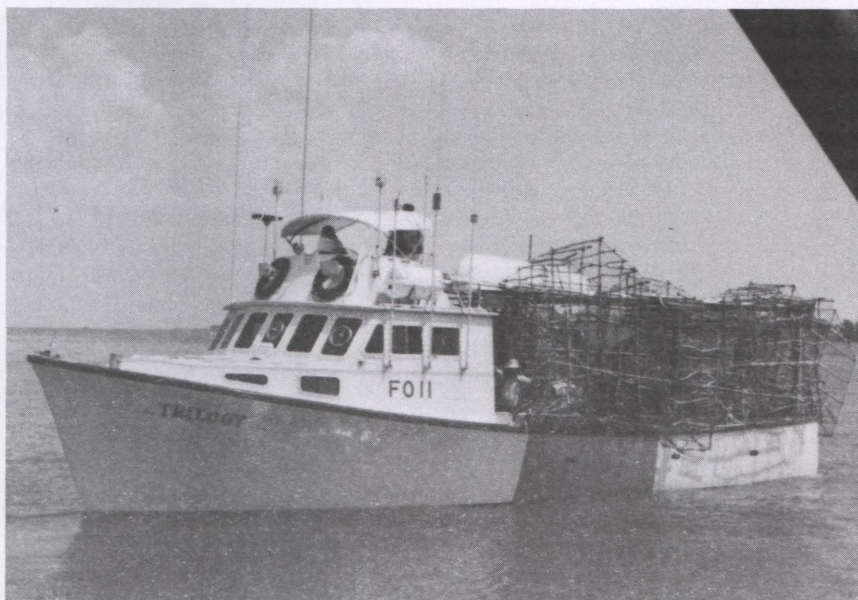
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ISSN 0741-5362

GIANT OCTOPUS BLAMED FOR DEEP SEA FISHING DISRUPTIONS



The *Trilogy*, which has been deploying crab and prawn traps to a depth of 2,000 fathoms off Bermuda. A large animal, presumed to be a giant octopus, has been holding traps down, which, in two instances, resulted in their total loss.

Reports of "giant" octopuses abound in both the historical literature and more modern-day accounts from different parts of the world. A giant octopus was once even described in a scientific journal, based on the stranding of a large organic mass at St. Augustine, Florida, in 1896. Modern analyses of that tissue, which had been preserved in the U.S. National Museum, has indicated a probable octopus origin, although further analyses are still to be conducted.

Meanwhile, off the coast of Bermuda, in the northwest Atlantic Ocean, a new drama has been unfolding which adds another chapter to the mystery. The principal figure in the new events is John P. "Sean" Ingham, a Bermudan deep-sea fisherman, and owner of Pathfinder Fisheries. Mr. Ingham has been con-

ducting what may be the deepest crab and shrimp fishing operation in existence, by lowering specially designed traps to between 1,000 and 2,000 fathoms.

During his 1984 work, he brought up very large crab and shrimp specimens, which he thought may represent new species, and which Bermudan officials feel could become a new and important natural resource for the island. The skinny red shrimp weighed about 7 ounces and were almost 1 foot in length. The crabs measured about 2 feet across, from claw to claw. Tom Steeter, of the Bermudan Biological Station, stated that the existence of such large crabs had been suspected because of previous, suspicious sonar tracks, but this was the first significant evidence, and he speculated on the existence of even much larger

ones.

James Burnett-Herkes, Assistant Director of the Bermudan Fisheries Department, communicated the above findings to Warren F. Rathjen, Deputy Chief of the Services Division of the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), in Gloucester, Massachusetts, who related them to Raymond B. Manning, a curator of crustacea at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. Dr. Manning, who was very interested in Mr. Ingham's finds, communicated directly with him, and then met with him during a visit he and C. Willard Hart--another crustacea curator (and an ISC member)--made to Bermuda in October, 1984.

Dr. Rathjen also informed Bennie A. Rohr, a fishery biologist with NMFS's Southeast Fisheries Center at Pascagoula, Mississippi, and Mr. Ingham and Dr. Rohr then communicated directly, first by telephone, and then by correspondence. Mr. Ingham relayed extensive information on his operations, and the events surrounding them, including the interference of what is presumed to have been a giant octopus. Dr. Rohr is a specialist on the biology, distribution, and abundance of deep sea crabs. Based on unclear photos, his preliminary identification of the organisms brought up by Mr. Ingham were a scarlet prawn (Plesiopenaeus edwardsianus), a Geryon sp. crab, and a caridean shrimp that might be of the genera Heterocarpus or Acantheephyra.

The following is a reconstruction of the events, based on written communications between Mr. Ingham and Dr. Rohr, and subsequent communications between Mr. Ingham and the Editor.

Mr. Ingham has been operating his 50-foot boat, the *Trilogy*, in specially targeted areas about 30 miles off the west

coast of Bermuda. On or about August 29, 1984, while fishing at 480 to 500 fathoms, he lost an 8 ft. x 8 ft. x 4.5 ft. reinforced, 14-gauge wire arrow fish trap, after "considerable strain" on the hydraulic winch system, containing approximately 5,000 lb. (22.5 lb./cu. ft.) of Geryon crabs. Before the loss, the trap, which had rested on the bottom for 5 days, was held briefly at the surface, and parts of prawns and shrimp were observed falling out of the trap. Mr. Ingham believes the trap first filled with large prawns, which attracted large predator crabs, some weighing 10 to 15 lb. The question is, what did the crabs then attract, which had the strength to actually break the line?

On or about September 3, 1984 another trap, 6 ft. x 6 ft. x 3 ft., was lost about halfway up when the line broke under a strain of 600 lb. The trap was being raised from 500 fathoms, despite a "tremendous weight." At about 300 fathoms, Mr. Ingham reported, "the winch was pulled backwards, causing the rope to jump out--and it sped out of the boat at approximately 30 mph. Instinctively, I reached for the line (which was dangerous), let the rope slip through my hands, and then guided the rope around the capstan head, around the sheave, while my partner kept the wash-down hose running water over the capstan head, stopping any friction. We managed to stop it, engaged the winch again, and with this greater torque pulling power we brought the pot to about 250 fathoms, when there was a series of jerks, and the line parted." This incident occurred about 1 mile from the site of the previous trap loss, leading to the supposition that the same--or a similar--animal was involved.

It was Dr. Rohr who first suggested that a giant octopus might be involved, and he informed Mr. Ingham about the 1896 St. Augustine stranding, observ-



John P. "Sean" Ingham, owner of Pathfinder Fisheries.

ing that "...octopi [sic] are known to like crabs and shrimp." The hypothesis was that a giant octopus was taking advantage of the large accumulation of crabs and shrimp in Mr. Ingham's traps, and was clinging on and holding the traps down until it was satiated.

Prior to these expensive losses--besides the investment in time, the traps cost thousands of dollars to construct--Mr. Ingham had noticed trap frames coming up damaged, and he originally thought that the damage was caused by a trap being dragged along the bottom with a full load of crabs. However, the traps are reinforced with 1/4 and 3/8-inch iron rods, and are X-braced with dense, strong 2-inch allspice tree staves, which were later observed to be nicked and broken, forcing Mr. Ingham to conclude that some large marine animal was involved. The subsequent complete loss of the two traps supported this conclusion further. Although as a commercial fisherman Mr. Ingham is less concerned with the nature of the animal than with the destruction it was causing, he feels that a giant octopus is the most likely cause of his problem.

On September 19, 1984, Mr. Ingham wrote a lengthy report to Dr. Rohr, informing him of new developments. Three days previously, on September 16, Mr. Ingham had managed to haul a trap which had been deliberately made smaller (3 ft. x 3 ft. x 18 in.). The following summarizes the chronology of events as relayed by Mr. Ingham. The trap was set at 480 fathoms, with a total of 800 fathoms of polyethylene rope. The line was attached to the winch, which proceeded to haul. The boat was moved to a position directly over the trap. "We found," Mr. Ingham stated, "that we could not break the pot [trap] clear from the bottom--something was holding it. The winch was starting to strain with the 9/16-inch rope that we were using, of approximately 4,500-lb. breaking strain."

Mr. Ingham's written report to Dr. Rohr continues: "We found that we could not break the pot free from the bottom, and we decided not to force it but to keep the tension on the rope directly above the trap, and tie it off in a cleat. I went inside and checked the chromoscope [a type of sonar]. I put it on split bottom mode, and could see a pyramid shape approximately 50 feet high. We decided from that moment to take a different strategy on the whole thing, and, rather than force the trap up, we kept tension, and every 5 minutes or so, we would start the winch again and would manage to get 2 or 3 fathoms each time, when it would go tight again, until finally we could not get in more rope. We felt this was a stretch factor, so we settled down and waited while the rope was snubbed tight."

"After about 20 minutes, I felt the boat was moving, and I confirmed it from the Loran position that I had, and the direction in which we were going, at a very slow speed of approximately 1 knot to the

south, parallel to the 450 curve. After about a third of a mile, the line started to show signs of moving towards the shelf inshore. We turned the wheel in that direction, and it went for a short distance, still maintaining the tension, and then abruptly turned to such an extent that I had to put the boat into reverse to get it to come back to the west."

Essentially, what Mr. Ingham was attempting to do was to keep tension on the line, so as to induce the animal involved to release the trap--despite its presumed desire to consume the valuable crabs within the trap--but not to the point of severely damaging the trap or the winch, or breaking the line. This strategy had to be one of patience, but while they were waiting, the animal, tugging on the other end--presumably with enormous arms or tentacles--began slowly towing the 50-foot boat at about 1 knot.

"While this was happening," Mr. Ingham continued, "I put my hand down close to the rope at water level, and could distinctly feel thumps like something was walking, and the vibrations were traveling up the rope. After being maneuvered by this 'creature' in this pattern, the rope suddenly came slack and the trap was released, and we had no problem hauling it.... We found that the trap was just slightly bent on one side, but the top of the trap appeared pushed-in between the panels of wire, as if it had some pressure put against it.... The strange part about this is that we have a prawn trap that is completely covered with a very small funnel that has been set from 300 to 425 fathoms, and we have never had any problem with that."

Mr. Ingham concluded that "there is no doubt that I have a 'creature' that is there, but I believe now that the problem is compounded by very large amounts of crab.... I would welcome a

study by scientists who wish to come down with their equipment to find out what this 'creature' is, possibly--even with the time lapse that we have after snubbing this 'creature' underneath the boat--to lower some type of camera equipment to identify it. I have gone to a lot of expense over the research that I have done up until now, and I would feel that I would have satisfaction if my curiosity could at least be put at rest by identifying it, whatever it is."

ISC Vice President Roy Mackal, a University of Chicago biochemist who has been involved in the analyses of the St. Augustine's tissue, was first informed of these developments by Dr. Rathjen, an ISC member, and he, in turn, attempted to stimulate interest on the part of the National Geographic Society, which had previously supported some of Dr. Mackal's fieldwork. National Geographic, in fact, had a boat in the area, with deep sea video equipment, and on board was shark biologist Eugenie Clark (a member of the Editorial Board of Cryptozoology). However, the video equipment was lost in an underwater mishap, and the proposed rapid deployment to the area was not possible.

National Geographic officials have informed Dr. Mackal that they would still be interested in pursuing this project, with the aim of lowering a television camera with one of Mr. Ingham's traps to capture the animal on video. However, Dr. Mackal feels that, to be successful, such a project should have been conducted while the events were still occurring, and waiting until 1986 will probably be too late. Thus, an opportunity to document such an animal in its own deep habitat has probably been lost, particularly as Mr. Ingham, disenchanted by what he considers to be a general lack of cooperation on the part of Bermudan scientists and officials, is moving his operation



Dr. DeWitt Webb standing next to the St. Augustine, Florida, carcass in early 1897, while it was being pulled to higher ground by a team of horses.

revise the size estimate upward.

It was Mr. Wood who, in 1958, rediscovered the long-forgotten St. Augustine incident. He had heard vague reports of "giant scuttles" ("scuttle" being the local name for octopus) in 1950-1951, when he was the first resident biologist at the American Museum of Natural History's Lerner Marine Laboratory in Bimini. Then, in 1956, when he was Curator of the Marineland Research Laboratory, in Florida, Mr. Wood went to West End, Grand Bahama Island, to survey potential ichthyology collection sites. It was during his work there that he became more acquainted with native "scuttle" reports, many of which provided specific dates and locations. He was particularly impressed with information provided by his guide Duke, who had already proved himself reliable in locating specific areas where certain fish species were to be found.

Another informant, the Island Commissioner, told of an encounter he had had as a boy when fishing with his father off Andros Island. Since then, Mr. Wood has wondered whether the Tongue of the Ocean, a deep marine trench on the east side of Andros Island, where a lot of rubble has accumulated, might not be an ideal habitat for such giant octopuses, which would surface very rarely and thus avoid scientific detection.

This idea was later supported in 1967, when Bruce Wright, Director of the Northeastern Wildlife Station, in New Brunswick, Canada, published an article in the Atlantic Advocate (June), suggesting that the legendary lusca of Andros Island, which is said by natives to inhabit inland lakes and to grab unwary passersby with strong tentacles with suckers, might be a mythified representation of the giant squid. Dr. Wright proposed that such squid might move through underwater

to Belize, in the Caribbean--which is also thought to be the haunt of giant octopuses.

In a telephone conversation with the Editor, Mr. Ingham stated that further "encounters" with the presumed giant octopus had occurred in 1985, but the details were not at hand due to his preparations for departing for Belize. He stated that he will continue experimenting with his deep-sea fishing operations off of Belize, using stronger traps and more powerful winches. Should similar events occur in the future, he will notify the Society.

What makes the experts practically certain that a giant octopus was involved in these incidents? Besides the large 50-foot pyramid-shaped mass tracked on the chromosome, there is the question of environment and behavior. The Editor consulted with marine biologist Forrest Wood, a long-time student of the giant octopus problem. Mr. Wood, who also had communicated with Mr. Ingham, stated that he could not think

of any other organism which inhabits sea bottoms which would have the strength and endurance to retain a trap in the way described (giant squid, which are known to zoology, are not bottom dwellers). The arms of a giant octopus would provide an excellent power grip on such a contraption, while feeding would proceed at leisure. The larger the octopus, the more strength would be involved in holding a trap which is being raised.

Mr. Wood, however, does not think that such animals grow to a radial spread of up to 200 feet, as has been suggested. A spread of 50 feet, over double that of the largest known octopus species, seems more reasonable to him, as large crustaceans--which would serve as a food source--are not known in the areas supposedly frequented by giant octopuses (see "Interview," Newsletter, Spring, 1983). Mr. Ingham's discovery of large crabs and shrimp in exactly the same spot as a presumed giant octopus--in fact, actually being consumed by it--may now perhaps allow one to

caverns--containing brackish water--and then surface momentarily through the inland blue holes. Although Dr. Wright had trained British commandos in diving techniques at Andros Island during the war, he had not heard of the giant octopus reports. When these were brought to his attention, he agreed that the giant octopus, rather than the giant squid, might better account for the lusca myth.

In 1957, about a year after his visit to Grand Bahama, Mr. Wood was perusing some old Marineland Lab files when he chanced upon an old article about the 1896 find at St. Augustine, just 16 miles from his lab. Intrigued, he tried to obtain more details, but at first drew a blank. Finally, after much effort, he was able to track down the details. A large organic mass had been found washed ashore at St. Augustine in November of 1896. Dr. DeWitt Webb, a physician and president of the local scientific society, investigated the matter and concluded that the general configuration of the mass established that it was an octopus. He took a number of photographs. The entire mass, partly buried in the sand, was 21 feet in length, and was thought to weigh about 6 or 7 tons. "If the eight arms held the proportions usually seen in smaller species of the octopus, they would have been at least 75 to 100 feet in length," stated one article in the New York Herald in early 1897. Such an arm length could give a radial spread of 200 feet, almost 10 times that of the largest known species.

The octopus identification was further supported when a Mr. Wilson informed Dr. Webb a few days later that he had uncovered parts of arms (tentacles) when digging around the body. The largest reportedly measured over 32 feet in length.



Another view of the St. Augustine carcass. Analyses of tissue preserved at the Smithsonian Institution indicates a probable octopus origin.

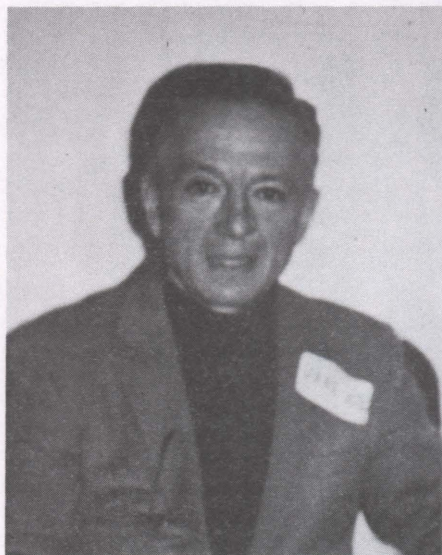
Dr. Webb wrote to several zoologists, which resulted in A. E. Verrill, a noted cephalopod expert at Yale University, publishing a scientific note naming the specimen Octopus giganteus. Dr. Webb also cut pieces from the specimen, which was periodically being washed out to sea and back again, and preserved them. Some tissue was sent to Dr. Verrill, who then retracted his earlier identification, concluding that the animal was probably some sort of cetacean (nevertheless, his scientific name Octopus giganteus still has priority today), adding, however, "I am unable to refer this immense, closed, pouch-like mass to any part of any known whale, or, in fact, to any other animal."

Frederic Augustus Lucas, a comparative anatomist at the National Museum (a large portion of the tissue had also been sent to William Healey Dale, curator of mollusks at the Museum) was more emphatic when writing in Science: "The substance looks like blubber, and smells like blubber, and it is blubber,

nothing more nor less." The Smithsonian specimen was then stored in the National Museum and forgotten--until Mr. Wood became interested in the case 60 years later.

Mr. Wood first heard from Gilbert Voss, a squid expert at the University of Miami Marine Laboratory, that the St. Augustine tissue was still preserved at the Smithsonian, and Mr. Wood made inquiries about obtaining access to it. It occurred to him that modern scientific techniques, not existing back in 1896, might shed light on the origin of the tissue. Harold A. Rehder, curator of mollusks, allowed a sample of the preserved material to be taken, which was done by Joseph F. Gennaro, Jr., a cell biologist at the University of Florida, who had become interested in analyzing the tissue while working on Atlantic octopus at the Marineland Lab and befriending Mr. Wood.

Dr. Rehder also provided copies of extensive correspondence between Dr. Dall (his



Joseph Gennaro, a cell biologist who analyzed the St. Augustine tissue.

predecessor) and Dr. Webb, in which the latter continued to insist that the animal was an octopus of enormous size. (It should be noted that neither Dr. Verrill nor Dr. Dall--nor any other professional zoologist--ever went to Florida to examine the carcass first-hand.)

Back in his laboratory, Dr. Gennaro prepared the tissue for histological analysis. The plan was to compare its cellular structure with that of squid and known octopus. Unfortunately, cellular structure was no longer visible, so Dr. Gennaro decided to compare connective tissue under polarized light. He concluded that the tissue was not whale blubber. "Further," he wrote, "the connective-tissue pattern was that of broad bands in the plane of the section with equally broad bands arranged perpendicularly, a structure similar to, if not identical with, that in my octopus sample. The evidence appears unmistakable that the St. Augustine sea monster was in fact an octopus, but the implications are fantastic." Further background and details on the case may be found in an article by Wood and Gennaro entitled "An Octopus

Trilogy," in Natural History, Vol. 53(3), March 1971, and Roy Mackal's book Searching for Hidden Animals (Doubleday, 1980).

Despite Dr. Gennaro's results, the existence of a giant octopus is not widely accepted in the zoological world--nor is the claim even widely known. No further physical evidence has come to light, but Wood and Gennaro (both members of the Board of Directors of the Society) are still hopeful. Mr. Wood, now with the Biosciences Department at the U.S. Naval Ocean Systems Center, in San Diego, has proposed the construction of a giant version of the Mediterranean fisherman's octopus pot, which could be lowered at likely locations, such as the Tongue of the Ocean. Dr. Gennaro, now with the Biology Department of New York University, hopes that other, more sophisticated biochemical analyses will lend support to his original conclusion, and he has teamed up with Roy Mackal.

Gennaro and Mackal have conducted further histological and amino acid analyses on the St. Augustine tissue, as well as on control samples from known octopus, squid, and cetaceans. Among other things, they have found that amino acid composition of the St. Augustine tissue differs significantly from the non-octopus tissues, showing a very high proportion of glycine. The St. Augustine's material also appears to be mainly collagen, which tends to support a cephalopod origin. The next step, Dr. Mackal hopes, will be immunological response analysis, which can place a subject organism in a relative evolutionary scale and determine its zoological affinities.

The Editor met with several ISC members during a visit to the National Museum of Natural History last summer, including Clyde Roper, Chairman of the Department of Invertebrate Zoology, and James Mead, a marine

mammalogist. Like their Smithsonian predecessors, they both hold the opinion that the St. Augustine animal was probably a cetacean after all, although they have not yet had an opportunity to study the new Gennaro-Mackal results, which hopefully will be published before long. Dr. Roper, a cephalopod expert, also expressed the opinion, however, that there probably are giant octopuses in deep marine environments, and he was very interested in the Bermuda incidents.

Mr. Ingham, the Bermudan fisherman, has lost a great deal of money and time--and crabs--to what Natural History magazine once called the "Stupefying Colossus of the Deep." But cryptozoology has been enriched by his loss, and perhaps one day, as happened with the giant squid, systematic zoology will be enriched by the addition of the giant octopus to its inventories. □

1986 MEETING

Members are reminded of the June 14 Membership Meeting, to be held in the Dora DeLee Room, Billings Hospital, University of Chicago. The meeting will run from 9:00 a.m. until about 5:00 p.m., and will commence with a social hour. Several illustrated talks will be given. The meeting is being hosted by Board member Leigh Van Valen, of the Department of Biology. Organizing is being done by ISC Vice-President Roy Mackal, also at Chicago. Members wishing more detailed information may call Dr. Mackal at the following telephone numbers: office, (312) 962-3416; home, (312) 238-6516. Neither Dr. Mackal nor the Society is arranging for hotel accommodations for out-of-town members, who are requested to make their own arrangements. Members in the Midwest will receive a reminder notice with a more detailed program about one month before the meeting. □

ICSEB III CRYPTOZOOLOGY SYMPOSIUM

The International Society of Cryptozoology sponsored a one-day symposium entitled: "Cryptozoology: The Search for Unknown or Supposedly Extinct Animals," which was held on July 7, 1985, as part of the general symposia of the III International Congress of Systematic and Evolutionary Biology (ICSEB III). The Congress, hosted by the University of Sussex, in Brighton, England, ran from July 4-10, and attracted zoologists, botanists, and evolutionists from all over the world.

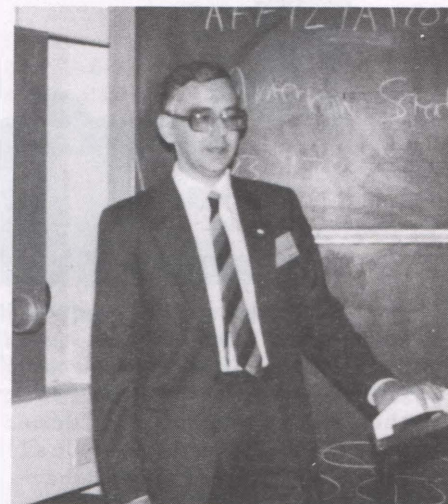
The Symposium, organized by ISC Secretary J. Richard Greenwell, was chaired by David Heppell, a curator of mollusca at the Royal Scottish Museum, in Edinburgh. The proceedings were divided into two general sessions, the morning session, dealing with theoretical topics, and the afternoon session, dealing with more specific areas of cryptozoology.

The morning session began with Chairman Heppell's Introductory Remarks, which included a discussion of "pseudo-conchology," and which set the tone for the rest of the Symposium. The first presentation was by ISC President Bernard Heuvelmans, a French mammalogist, who discussed "Splitting vs. Lumping in Systematic Zoology and Cryptozoology." Dr. Heuvelmans stated that unknown (or incompletely known) species become mythicized, and are then classified in terms of the few mythical archetypes they seem to fit best. This results in a lumping together of zoologically unrelated--or at least not closely related--forms. Examples of such instances in the cryptozoological literature were given, and Dr. Heuvelmans proposed that at least provisional splitting-up of apparently similar forms is warranted when undertaking cryptozoological analyses.

The second presentation was by Richard Greenwell, who spoke on "A Classificatory System for Cryptozoology." Mr. Greenwell first reviewed various definitions of cryptozoology, and presented his own proposed definition. He then presented a new classificatory system, containing seven categories, which he suggested could be used by researchers, scholars, and even critics, in order to reduce subjectivity and more specifically define the parameters of cryptozoology. Examples of both historical precedents and current claims were given for each category. (An article based on Mr. Greenwell's Brighton address has just appeared in the 1985 issue [Vol. 4] of Cryptozoology.)

The final talk in the morning session was by Piotr Klafkowski, a Polish linguist currently residing in Oslo, Norway, who specializes in obscure, unwritten, and vanishing languages. Dr. Klafkowski spoke on "The Case for a Linguistic Component in Cryptozoology," during which he described how the extinction of languages often occurs--in unison with the destruction of habitat and species--before they can be described and studied. He stated that cryptozoological data can be gathered from vanishing languages, both in the field and in the library, and that linguistic analysis of such data can provide clues for planning cryptozoological fieldwork. Dr. Klafkowski also suggested the establishment of a "linguistic information bank" within cryptozoology.

The afternoon session began with a paper by ISC Vice President Roy Mackal, a biochemist and zoologist at the University of Chicago, and Joseph Gennaro, Jr., a cell biologist at New York University. As Dr. Gennaro was not present, the talk,



Piotr Klafkowski, a Polish linguist, speaking at the ICSEB III Cryptozoology Symposium.

entitled "Histological and Amino Acid Analyses of Octopus giganteus Tissue," was given by Dr. Mackal. Preserved tissue from a supposed giant octopus (see lead article, this issue) had been subjected to histological and amino acid analyses, together with control tissues from other marine animals, including beluga, known octopus, and known squid. Micrographs of tissue samples made with dark field polarized light illumination established that the supposed giant octopus tissue is, in fact, most similar to octopus tissue. The amino acid composition differs significantly from all other specimens, showing a very high percentage of glycine, and comparisons with known proteins suggest that the Octopus giganteus tissue is mainly collagen.

The second paper, "Fossil Ungulates in the Archaeological Record," was by Christine Janis, a paleomammalogist at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. Unfortunately, Dr. Janis was unable, after all, to attend the Congress, despite the fact that she was chairperson of



Morning panel discussion at the ICSEB III Cryptozoology Symposium. Left to right: David Heppell, Bernard Heuvelmans, Richard Greenwell, Roy Mackal, Grover Krantz, and Piotr Klafkowski.

another ICSEB symposium, "Comparative and Paleontological Approaches to Mammalian Behavioural Ecology," so her paper was read by her colleague Kathy Scott, from Rutgers University, who was in attendance. Dr. Janis' paper proposed that a number of ungulates represented in the Plio-Pleistocene fossil record may have survived into historical times, and may be depicted in archaeological relics and artwork. Her examples were possible sivatheres in Mediterranean sculpture, a possible chalicotheres in the Siberian frozen tombs, a possible giant aquatic hyrax in a Chinese sculpture, and a possible deinotheres depicted on a Chinese carpet.

The next presentation was by Helmut Hemmer, a mammalogist at the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz, West Germany. Dr. Hemmer, a specialist in large cats, proposed that the long-reported puma-like Onza of northwestern Mexico could involve the persistence of a recently described North American Pleistocene cheetah, Acinonyx trumani, into modern times. Onzas have been reported as distinct from pumas and jaguars for centuries, although zoologists have generally ignored the reports, assuming ordinary pumas to be involved. Dr. Hemmer expressed the hope that further work might uncover evidence which could establish

the living presence of such a fossil cheetah in Mexico.

Mr. Greenwell was invited to give an update on the case, and he reported that he had located Robert Marshall, the person who had investigated the Onza in the 1950's, and Dale Lee, the famous guide and hunter who had shot an Onza in 1938--both now living in Tucson, Arizona. Mr. Greenwell stated that a search was under way for the skull of the 1938 cat, which may have been deposited in a museum, and that new Onza skulls believed to be in Mexico will also be examined.

The last presentation was by Grover Krantz, a physical anthropologist at Washington State University, in Pullman, who spoke on "A Species Named From Footprints." Dr. Krantz proposed that the Plio-Pleistocene fossil primate Gigantopithecus blacki, described originally from three jawbones and about 1,000 teeth, is represented in modern times by the supposed Sasquatch or Bigfoot of North America. In effect, Dr. Krantz proposed an extension of the description and naming of Gigantopithecus to Sasquatch, based on eyewitness sightings and other evidence, such as footprints and their casts. Dr. Krantz' talk aroused considerable interest in the Congress, as well as some criticism, particularly from officers of the International Commission of Zoo-

logical Nomenclature who were present. To carry any validity, one critic observed, Dr. Krantz would have to publish his description of Sasquatch, which Dr. Krantz later stated he would do (the description is to appear in Northwest Anthropological Research Notes, and the Newsletter will discuss the article when it appears).

Each presentation was followed by a question and answer session, to allow attendees to address specific questions to the speakers, and many interesting debates resulted from such interactions. In addition, both morning and afternoon sessions ended with panel discussions between the speakers and the audience, and further lively debates ensued as a result. The audience was composed of ISC members and other biologists who were attending the Congress.

The Brighton Symposium gave some British ISC members a chance to meet with colleagues from other countries. Besides being the first such meeting ever held in Britain, it was the first time cryptozoology had been specifically addressed as part of a major international scientific conference. Such an event was only possible, many felt, because a formal society now exists through which such interactions can be stimulated and funneled. In subsequent correspondence with Mr. Greenwell, Barry Cox, a zoologist at King's College and Chairman of the ICSEB III Steering Committee, expressed his pleasure at having the Society hold a symposium as part of the ICSEB III, and that the Symposium had been a success.

Besides the Symposium itself, participants also attended other Congress functions and events, such as a Zoology Dinner, and a special one-day visit to Down House, Charles Darwin's ancestral home in Kent. ICSEB IV is now scheduled for 1990 at the University of Maryland. □

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

With the publication of the present newsletter, only one issue (Winter) is overdue from 1985. This last 1985 newsletter is now in production, and should be mailed within 30 days after the mailing of the present one. The Spring, 1986, issue will appear about June.

In the meantime, all members should have received the 1985 journal. Members may renew for 1986 using the return/renewal envelope contained in the journal's plastic mailing cover, or the one contained in the last 1985 newsletter now in production. Membership remains at \$25 a year, which includes the receipt of four quarterly newsletters and one annual journal.

Members are reminded of the

1986 Membership Meeting, to be held in Chicago on June 14, 1986. Details appeared in the last newsletter. The meeting, to be held in the Dora DeLee Room of Billings Hospital, University of Chicago, will include several informal talks by ISC members. So far, the following speakers have been scheduled: Christine Janis (on the possible persistence into historical times of fossil ungulates), Grover Krantz (on a complete skull reconstruction of Gigantopithecus, which he proposes persists today in the form of Sasquatch), and Richard Greenwell (on the latest findings on the Onza, a puma-like Mexican cat which has been proposed as a possible living representative of the North American fossil cheetahs--see "ICSEB III Crypto-

zoology Symposium," elsewhere in this issue).

This is the first ISC Membership Meeting being held in the U.S. Midwest, and we hope many Midwestern members will wish to attend. There is no admission fee. The meeting will commence at 9:00 a.m. with a social hour, during which members can meet and get to know one another. This will be followed by the various presentations, and time will also be allocated for members to give their own views concerning general or specific topics concerning cryptozoology.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Chicago on June 14, and participating in some stimulating discussions.

J. Richard Greenwell
Editor

NEWS & NOTES

News and Notes is a regular column which carries brief news capsules of cryptozoological interest. Readers are encouraged to send in suitable items for possible use in the column.

Ugliness Bestows Honor. New species are being found all the time, particularly insects. New genera sometimes also come to light, and, more rarely, new families (sometimes only represented by one genus and species). A new order of organisms would be very significant, and a new class (like the fish or mammals) truly phenomenal. What happened recently was even more dramatic, at least technically: a new phylum has been identified and described. Phyla are the major subdivisions in the animal kingdom--under which classes are placed--and there are only 34 of them (including the phyla for all the vertebrates, the chordata). Only 34 until 1983, that is. Now there are 35.

The new organism representing this newly established phylum of Loricifera is called Nanaloricus mysticus. It is a microscopically small animal that lives in marine sand and gravel on the ocean floor. The organism has a flexible and retractable tube for a mouth, a unique feature. Richard Kristensen, of the University of Copenhagen in Denmark, first found Nanaloricus in 1975, but lost it during a laboratory mishap. He found larval forms in 1976, and another adult, finally, in France in 1982, from gravel from a depth of 30 meters. The serendipitous find resulted when he was in a hurry and had to rinse the gravel with fresh water, instead of using normal, sophisticated methods. The method "osmotically shocked" the organism, forcing it to loosen its grip on the sand particle. Finding by accident that this technique worked, Kristensen obtained a second specimen--of a different species--in Greenland.

Kristensen then teamed up with Robert Higgins, at the U.S.

National Museum in Washington, D.C., who had first predicted the existence of the organism in 1961, and actually found a larval form of one in 1974 without realizing it (it is now recognized as a new species, genus, and possibly family within the new phylum). Finally, in 1983, the two researchers found several adult organisms off the Florida coast. Although Higgins missed out on the discovery, the larval form has been named in his honor (Higgins-Larva), about which he commented: "I am very pleased, of course, even though it is such an ugly creature." It is only the third time in the 20th century that a new phylum has had to be erected to accommodate a newly discovered organism.

Steller Idea. From time to time, unconfirmed reports reach the West concerning sightings by crewmen of Soviet fishing trawlers of what might be Steller's sea cow (Hydrodamalis gigas), a large marine mammal decimated by whalers in the 18th century, soon after the species was dis-

covered in the Bering Sea. Only two other Sirenians survive--the manatee and the dugong--and the discovery of any surviving Steller's sea cows would be a phenomenal cryptozoological event.

A new (1984) Izvestia report discusses physicist Anatoly Shkunkov's search for the animal in an area off of Kamchatka, where a biologist previously reported observing a marine mammal resembling the extinct Sirenian. Shkunkov surveyed the area with hydroacoustic equipment, but found no sea cows, which, he concluded, "could hardly survive in such conditions." Nevertheless, all possibilities, however remote, "should be checked out," he told Soviet correspondent A. Pushkar.

Beer Bait. In January of 1985, Scotsman Bill Grant left on his fifth expedition to the Himalayas, after announcing his planned attempt to lure a Yeti with buckets of British beer--brand unnamed. "I'm convinced it [the Yeti] exists," he told reporters as he left London's Heathrow Airport for Katmandu, "but you cannot carry on with this forever." Grant was reportedly to be accompanied by a German photographer and five Sherpa assistants. He was joined in early February by American John Leslie, a Binghamton, New York, radio broadcaster. Leslie stated that the Yeti "might like a choice, so I will bring along some Genesee." No further news has been received by the ISC Secretariat concerning the outcome of the expedition.

Reports from Nepal in 1984 had already revealed problems created by an increased flow of tourists, mountaineers, and Yeti seekers--despite "substantial increases in climbing fees." A Dutch climbing team reportedly lodged a complaint over the presence of a Nepalese police team sent to Mount Everest to clean up after previous expeditions.

Monstrous Promotion. Indian legends of a "monster" in Wallowa Lake, in northeastern Oregon, predate the arrival of white settlers. One legend talks of a brave and a princess swallowed whole by the monster--canoe and all. Nineteenth and 20th century sightings describe a 30-100-foot-long "serpent," but not much else is known. Since 1982, however, all that has been changing. The Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce, anxious to extract more than the current daily per capita average of \$7 spent by the 60,000 tourists visiting Wallowa each year, is promoting "Wally" as a regional attraction.

The Monster Observation and Preservation Society (MOPS) has been created, and members get a life membership card and a monster T-shirt for \$8. The only membership requirement is to attend the annual autumn picnic, at which a "sacrificial maiden" is offered to the monster should it appear. Most locals think the "monster" is just a myth, or, at most, a giant sturgeon, but some witnesses take the matter seriously. Marge Cranmer, previously a skeptic, claimed a sighting on June 30, 1982. She described it as being 50 feet long and as having seven humps. "Nobody can tell me what I saw was a sturgeon," she said. "Now I'm sure lots of people have seen the creature, but don't want to admit it. But I'm tough."

On the Beach. Iceland has a long history and lore of monsters, and tales of monsters in Lake Kleifarvatn, 20 miles south of the capital, Reykjavik, go back centuries. In what is claimed to be the first reliable eyewitness report from the lake, which sits at an altitude of almost 500 feet, two Icelandic bird hunters observed two unidentified animals "playing" on the lake's beach in November of 1984. The witnesses, Julius Asgeirsson and Olafur Olafsson, watched the animals leave the

water and then return again. "At first, we thought they were rocks, but as they started to move we had the surprise of our lives," said Asgeirsson. "They were larger than horses, they moved about like dogs, but swam like seals. We have never seen anything like this before, and at first we were reluctant to tell anyone," he added. "We feared people would think we were crazy."

The observers were reportedly "a few hundred yards" from the animals, and they later found footprints larger than those of horses; they were split, as with cloven-hooved animals, but with two clefts instead of one. Lake Kleifarvatn is known to be rich in fish and bird life, but reportedly has no river feeding into it.

No further details have been made available to the Society, other than the comment by Icelandic biologist Helgi Hallgrímsson, who stated: "So many trustworthy people tell of strange natural occurrences in Iceland which we cannot identify, but I am certain that there is more in nature than we know." Readers are invited to propose what kind of animals--known or unknown to science--may have been seen that day on the beach. □

"Common sense...has the very curious property of being more correct retrospectively than prospectively. It seems to be that one of the principal criteria to be applied to successful science is that its results are almost always obvious retrospectively; unfortunately, they seldom are prospectively. Common sense provides a kind of ultimate validation after science has completed its work; it seldom anticipates what science is going to discover."

Russell Lincoln Ackoff
Decision-Making in National Science Policy
Churchill, London, 1968.

CRYPTOLETTERS

The Editor welcomes letters from readers on any topic related to cryptozoology, but reserves the right to shorten them or to make slight changes to improve style and clarity, but not meaning.

To the Editor:

I have been reading various books and articles on the subject of Sasquatch (Bigfoot), and there is one aspect that I feel has not been touched upon strongly enough.

There are some major physical aspects of Sasquatch that have been studied in detail (footprints, photography, etc.), but what about the question of odor? Many cases report an overpowering stench which can be noticed from quite a distance. What could be the reason for this stench or smell, and could this body odor reveal something very characteristic of the creature itself? Could this odor reveal something of its food source or home range?

Ken Purcell
Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.

To the Editor:

I once mentioned to a friend the existence of a small, but growing group of people interested in bridging the gap between myth and reality in the search for "hidden animals." At the time, we wondered whether it might not be in everyone's best interest to simply leave myths just the way they are: legends, tales, and stories that have been bantered about for years, to the enjoyment of some as fairy tales, and to others as a reminder that we do not know all there is to know about nature. To become complacent and satisfied with the status quo, however, would be contrary to the forces that have brought our

civilization to where it is today.

I believe there is evidence of an increasing awareness on the part of the public to the possible existence of at least some of these "myths." Though this may well result in additional hoaxes, it will also increase the chance of irrefutable evidence being obtained because there will be more people on the lookout.

I, for one, hope that the evidence is conclusively positive for their existence, and that "they" will then be protected from any further encroachment by the masses of humanity, as New York State has done, and Vermont apparently intends to do, in the case of Champ.

Please keep the information flowing. I look forward to future reports and evidence from around the world.

John B. Cleary
New York, New York, U.S.A.

Both chambers of the New York State Legislature (the House and the Assembly) and the Vermont House have passed legislative resolutions "recognizing" the existence of Champ, and calling for "its" protection. These resolutions, however, do not actually provide legal protection to the supposed large unknown animals in Lake Champlain.--Editor

To the Editor:

While reflecting on the recent Membership Meeting in San Diego, which my wife and I attended, a thought occurred to me concerning the evidence required in the field of cryptozoology.

It is generally assumed that evidence which is not now known must be found in order to help establish a crypto-animal's

existence. However, after listening to Roy Mackal and Forrest Wood concerning the analyses of a 90-year-old sample of Octopus giganteus tissue, which indeed now appears to be octopus tissue after all, I was struck with this thought:

How much evidence (of whatever type) is either now "lost" or unavailable to public (i.e., scientific) survey? How much of this evidence is in the cellars of museums and in private collections? With new testing procedures available, quite surprising results might be obtained by a reevaluation of previously examined evidence.

What seems to be needed is a cataloguing--by someone--of both once-known evidence which has been lost, and evidence which is under private control; sort of an ISC "most wanted" list.

A perfect example of the second category is G. E. Taylor's (1938) 16mm color film showing a large animal on the surface of Loch Ness. However, according to Mackal (The Monsters of Loch Ness, Swallow Press, Chicago, 1976) this film "has been exclusively in the hands of Maurice Burton," and no recent attempts have been successful in screening this film, let alone subjecting it to legitimate image-enhancing techniques. While Dr. Burton certainly has the right to control this film while he lives (he will be 88 years old this year), control of this film will almost certainly pass to the executor of his estate at some future time. Every lawful effort should then be made to secure access to this film. Perhaps our British members, such as David James, or Sir Peter Scott, could be of assistance.

In conclusion, while "new" evidence must always be sought, securing "lost" or "unavailable" evidence must not be neglected.

Bruce Rivera
Seal Beach, California, U.S.A.

WOOD'S ANIMAL FACTS

The tallest living animal is the giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardis*), which is closely associated with the scattered acacia and thorny bush growth of the dry open plains of tropical Africa.

There are nine recognized races...the tallest are the Masai giraffe (*Giraffa C. tippelskirchi*) of Tanzania and South Kenya, and the Cape or southern giraffe (*Giraffa C. capensis*) of southwest Africa. In both sub-species, adult bulls average 17 ft., 4.5 in. (5.3 m.) in a normal standing position (tip of the forehoof to base of horn), and weigh about 2,646 lb. (1,200 kg.). Adult cows are much smaller and lighter in build, averaging 14 ft., 5.5 in. (4.4 m.) in height, and weighing about 1,250 lb. (567 kg.).

The greatest measurement recorded for a giraffe between pegs is 19 ft., 3 in. (5.87 m.) (standing height of about 19 ft. [5.8 m.]) for a Masai bull shot by Coswell in Kenya, but this extreme figure may have included the horns as well (length 6-9 in. [15-23 cm.]). It was thus 4 ft. (1.22 m.) taller than a London double-decker bus. This animal was not weighed piece-meal, but it probably scaled at least 3,638 lb. (1,650 kg.). Another bull of the same race also shot in Kenya measured 19 ft. (5.8 m.). The tallest Cape giraffe on record was a bull collected by Henry Bryden which measured 18 ft., 11.5 in. (5.78 m.). This specimen was later mounted to the same height, and put on display in the American Museum of Natural History, New York.

The greatest measurement recorded for a cow giraffe between pegs is 16 ft., 10 in. (5.13 m.) for a matriarch shot by Henry Bryden in the desert country near the Botletli River, Ngamiland, in 1917. The tallest giraffe ever held in captivity was a Masai bull called "George," who arrived at Chester Zoo [England] on January 8, 1959, from Kenya when he was an estimated 18 months old. At the age of 6 years he measured 18 ft. (5.49 m.), and when he stopped growing a year later his horns almost brushed the roof of the 20-ft. (6.1 m.) high Giraffe House. He died on July 22, 1969.

Abstracted from:

The Guinness Book of Animal Facts and Feats, by Gerald L. Wood. Guinness Superlatives, Enfield, U.K. (3rd ed.), 1982.

Honorary Members: Andre Capart (Belgium); Marjorie Courtenay-Latimer (South Africa); David James (United Kingdom); Marie-Jeanne Koffmann (Soviet Union); Ingo Krumbiegel (Federal German Republic); Theodore Monod (France); John R. Napier (United Kingdom); Sir Peter Scott (United Kingdom).

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